

INFORMAL COMMUNICATION  
Patent Application Docket No. SPO.124

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner : Zachary C. Howard  
Art Unit : 1646  
Applicants : Tadao Saito *et al.*  
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For : Use of Toll-Like Receptor-Expressing Cells

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INFORMAL COMMUNICATION

Dear Examiner Howard:

In preparation for our telephone interview tomorrow at 11:00, following are amendments that I would like to propose to claims 2 and 5. I do not remember, should I call you or will you call me?

Proposed claims

2 (currently amended). ~~The method, according to claim 1, wherein said method is used to screen~~ A method of screening for a sample that activates the intestinal tract immune system, ~~wherein the method comprises~~ comprising the steps of:

(a) ~~assessing whether a plurality of test samples activate the intestinal tract immune system by the assessment method of claim 1; and~~ contacting a test sample with an isolated cell expressing a naturally-occurring mammalian intestinal tract tissue-expressed Toll-like receptor;

(b) measuring activity of the Toll-like receptor using signal transduction in the cell as an indicator; and

~~(b)(c) selecting from the plurality of test samples those assessed to activate the intestinal tract immune system~~ the test sample as a sample that activates the intestinal tract immune system if the activity of the Toll-like receptor is increased as compared to activity of the Toll-like receptor in a cell not contacted with the test sample.

5 (currently amended). ~~The method, according to claim 4, wherein said method is used to screen~~ A method of screening for microorganisms that activate the intestinal tract immune system, comprising the steps of:

~~(a) assessing whether a plurality of test microorganisms activate the intestinal tract immune system by the assessment method of claim 4; and preparing an extract from a test microorganism;~~

(b) contacting the extract with an isolated cell expressing a naturally-occurring mammalian intestinal tract tissue-expressed Toll-like receptor;

(c) measuring activity of the Toll-like receptor using signal transduction in the cell as an indicator; and

(d) selecting the test microorganism as a microorganism that activates the intestinal tract immune system if the activity of the Toll-like receptor is increased as compared to activity of the Toll-like receptor in a cell not contacted with the extract

~~(b) selecting from the plurality of test microorganisms one or more microorganisms that are assessed to activate the intestinal tract immune system.~~